

Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.

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Strand Theatre Weekly Email ? 7/21/2017

Written by David on July, 21 2017

Dear Strand Fan,

It is hard to believe we are in the middle of July. Lots of great things have happened this month. We all enjoyed the Shelby County Fair (did you hear Strand performer Emma Hill?), Arts in the Park, and the Downtown Farmers Market just to name a few.

We held a work session last week. A fine group of volunteers worked on the to-do list. Top of that list was the roof. After thorough inspection, the problem was considered a fluke. The wind was very strong directly out of the north. This is the same wind and hail that shattered our marquee bulbs. The torrential downpour was pushed under our shingles and against the parapet. We could find no evidence of anything wrong, and we have never had a leak in that location before. The work session also accomplished cleaning our AC condensate drains (do you do this at home?). We also painted the trim around our new front doors. The final project was something we have needed to do for a very long time. The marquee has some internal lamps that have burned out. Through the generosity of Mark Polston, he brought his lift to the Strand so we could access the inside of the marquee. Everything was good to go. The marquee came apart easily once on the lift.

Unfortunately we had 8? fluorescent tubes and we forgot our marquee requires 10? tubes. We made a trip to Indianapolis to get these special lamps and finish the job. We replaced all the lamps in the front of the marquee. We knew that if we didn?t the next week another would burn out! Unfortunately the two that were out didn?t light with the new bulbs.

Back to Indianapolis to get specialized ballasts for the marquee. (We replaced two, the one that was out, and the one that was going to fail just as soon as we got things put back together.) Viola! Everything works. As part of the process we completely cleaned the inside and outside of the marquee panels. They were filthy. This is part of the regular maintenance that is required to keep the Strand in tip-top shape. It took 37 hours of volunteer labor to get this project done. Worth every minute!

It is important that everything in the Strand be maintained at a professional level. The marquee is a big part of our marketing. We have wonderful visibility being at the intersection of State Roads 9 & 44. We want to ensure that everything looks and functions perfectly.

Our long term plans are to upgrade our marquee to LED reader boards. These will be static displays, much like the marquees of historic theaters around the country. The Strand is able to survive in a volunteer environment due to our board?s commitment to improving the theater to make it easy to operate. Changing the marquee is not the most fun job.

We have a couple of volunteers who do this task regularly. A reader board system will be just one thing that makes the Strand operate smoothly. It takes about 20 minutes to change wording on a marquee panel. We have four panels. Each is changed about 50 times a year. (Let?s do a little math: $((4 \times 50) \times 20 \text{ minutes}) / 60 = 66.7 \text{ hours}$. That is a lot of volunteer labor just to change the marquee). If you would like to donate those boards, our early cost estimates are around \$100,000!

The Strand had another pre-hearing conference with the judge for our case against the Department of Homeland Security.

This was attended only by our attorney Lee McNeely. We have done extensive research and investigation and still do not understand how DHS and State Fire Jim Greeson can hold us responsible not getting Construction Design Releases from work done in 2009 & additional work done in 2015/16. We have always followed all the procedures and both the jobs in question were properly permitted and inspected locally. We can find no examples of similar jobs going through the CDR process. We have found dozens of similar jobs that didn?t.

We were told that Inspector Walter Knaepple was part of the conference. Inspector Knaepple signed the violations we are fighting. This is the same Inspector Knaepple that made accusations against the Strand last year that were proved wrong in December. He was described by the State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson ?as our best inspector.? This was before DHS reversed their punitive decision on the Strand in December.

We believe we are being punished because we challenged DHS. We believe we are being punished because we challenged Walter Knaepple. We believe we are being punished because we challenged Jim Greeson. Everyone should

understand the Department of Homeland Security and the State Fire Marshal have no interest in making the Strand a safer place. The work they have prevented from being accomplished (making our fire exit larger and more accessible) was going to be a huge safety improvement. Also, we just found out last week that Code Enforcement Chief Dave Smith was fired from DHS. Chief Smith threatened our Strand volunteers and legal counsel when he visited last November. What he did that day was illegal. Those are details we will talk about later. We are glad he is gone. Our next legal date is August 9th.

Until then our volunteers will spend dozens of hours preparing for this frivolous legal fight. This is time that is NOT spent on the Strand, NOT spent on future performances, and NOT what a volunteer expects to do when volunteering. Just so you know, the fines that can be imposed to date are \$101,000. What a good way to reward a community for helping its own Quality of Life. We hope the staff at DHS intends on donating to the Strand for the damage they caused. They could also volunteer and see what true volunteer minded, non ego driven citizens do to improve their community. We still say shame on them.

The coming week we get back to having events. On Wednesday night July 26, 2017 our COMMUNITY TREASURE SERIES will feature Mainstreet Shelbyville. They will be talking about all the wonderful things happening in downtown Shelbyville. The event starts at 7:00pm and is free.

Friday Night Frights returns on July 28, 2017 with DEMENTIA 13. This 1963 film was written and directed by Francis Ford Coppola. It was produced by Roger Corman. The film is suspenseful and gave Mr. Coppola a start back when directors had to ?pay their dues.? We hope you can attend this cinematic treasure. Tickets are only \$5 at the door or available in advance at Mickey?s T-Mart or the Skyline Drive-In.

The KING, KILLER, and the MAN IN BLACK will take the stage on Saturday July 29, 2017 at 7:30pm. This rock and roll show will feature the music of Sun Records artists Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Johnny Cash. Tickets are still available. We look forward to hearing the music that shaped modern rock and roll. Tickets are \$20 at the door or available in advance at Mickey?s T-Mart or the Skyline Drive-In. The tickets are also available online at BrownPaperTickets.com

There are still other performances happening out and about. This weekend you can catch the Shelby County Players? performance of Midsummer Night?s Dream at Allen Family Catering. The Shelby Arts Alliance presents Music in the Park on July 28th. Everything is fun and at the Strand we want to you seek out live performance, whether at our venue or not.

Thank you for your support. The Strand is looking forward to some great performances. See you at the Strand!

Images on this post:

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